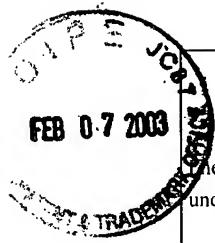


#9146308
2/11/03 PATENT
Docket No. 485272002900



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Diane Blevins

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Mark G. ERLANDER and Ranelle C.
SALUNGA

Serial No.: 10/062,857

Filing Date: October 25, 2001

For: NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION

Examiner: Shar S. Hashemi

Group Art Unit: 1637

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REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed November 7, 2002 for which a response was due on February 7, 2003. This Reply is thus believed to be timely filed.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Action and request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and discussion.